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C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 001560

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR ISN/RA (R. MONGIELLO AND R. NEPHEW)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/15/2018

TAGS: PARM KNNP MNUC TRGY IAEA PREL IR

SUBJECT: (C) SOUTH AFRICA PREDICTS SOFT IRAN NAM STATEMENT

REF: STATE 74879

Classified By: Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Perry Ball. Reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

¶1. (C) In response to reftel demarche, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Deputy Director: Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Michiel Combrink said that the drafting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit statement on Iran's nuclear program will be a "very difficult process." Iran has floated the text of a draft declaration, which has problematic elements. Combrink reported that "core NAM members," including South Africa, are committed to a "realistic" statement on Iran's nuclear program, but "the most one can hope for" is something similar to the 2006 Havana statement. It is not/not realistic to expect the NAM to urge Iran to comply with UNSC resolutions or even reference the UNSC (except perhaps in a negative way). Combrink also noted that the location of the NAM summit, in Tehran, is a complicating factor, since NAM members will not want to "insult" the host in any way.

¶2. (C) ForMin Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma will head the South African delegation to the NAM Summit. Combrink will also be part of the delegation, his first trip to Iran, and will be the key working-level negotiator on the Iran statement.

¶3. (C) Separately, Iranian Deputy ForMin Mohammed Rez Baqeri will visit Pretoria July 17 to meet with his counterpart,

Deputy ForMin Aziz Pahad. Baqeri's visit will prepare for the upcoming South Africa-Iran Joint Bilateral Commission, which will take place August 2-3 in Tehran following the NAM Summit. ForMin Dlamini-Zuma and the Iranian Acting Minister of Economy and Finance will co-chair the Commission meeting. BOST